

# Making a contribution to information literacy

Alan Bundy, Information Literacy Special Interest Group

The key educational, economic and democratic requirement for Australia in the twenty-first century is an information literate population. As a new group, the Information Literacy Special Interest Group (INFOLIT) is the focus for librarians and library technicians to make their special contribution to national information literacy advocacy.

During 1999, a website (including an electronic newsletter) and an e-list have been established as the main communication channels for members of the group.

Lobbying activities have included correspondence to a range of individuals and organisations including the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's inquiries into access to

the information highway and into rural and remote education. Discussions have been held with the Centre for Lifelong Learning and Development (a South Australian government initiative) and the convener of the group participated in a seminar on lifelong learning organised by the Centre in September.

The committee has been involved in the program development of the Fourth National Information Literacy conference *Concept, challenge, conundrum: from library skills to information literacy* (a joint initiative with the University of South Australia Library) to be held from 3 to 5 December in Adelaide. Keynote speaker at the conference will be Professor Ken Jaucok. Conference proceedings will be available from the University of South Australia Library early in 2000. ■

# Strategic review in 1999

Elizabeth Swan, Information Science Section (National)

1999 has been a successful year for the Information Science Section (ISS). In January we held the 9th *Information online and on disc* conference at Darling Harbour in Sydney. This is now the premier conference and exhibition in the information industry in Australia, attracting more than 1200 registrations including delegates from all states of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

In addition to a spectacular exhibition with sixty-five exhibits, in 1999 a 'Web showcase' was introduced, and of course the internet lounge where 'celebrity surfers' were on hand to advise, was again very popular. As a result of this very successful activity, the Information Science Section is for the ninth time delivering to ALIA a handsome profit.

Planning for *Online and on disc* for 2001 has begun and the various organising committees formed. It is very pleasing to report that in addition to the experienced ISS members, we now have a number of younger members coming on to our organising commit-

tees thus ensuring that these successful conferences will continue to be held in the future for the benefit of our members and all information professionals in Australia interested in electronic information delivery.

During the year the section also established a web presence on ALIANet. This is being used to deliver information about ongoing activities, including the strategic review of the section initiated in 1999. We have recently distributed questionnaires to our members seeking feedback from them so that we can continue to deliver the support and services our members require.

We also initiated a new series of meetings in 1999 — *Behind the scenes*. The first was held on a frightfully wet evening at GEAC when only a handful were prepared to brave the weather. The second *Behind the scenes* meeting was at Parliament House Sydney where Kate Curr gave an excellent presentation on the Parliamentary Library's intranet. This meeting was completely booked out and those attending confirmed how useful this session was. Further meetings of this kind are planned for 2000. ■

## Special rates for ALIA members

Madison's Central City Hotel, Elizabeth Bay in Sydney is offering an extra-special rate for members of the Association staying in Sydney.

The special rate of \$85 per room per night is valid until 31 March 2000 [excluding the period 22 December 1999 to 10 January 2000]

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